

Scottsdale Civic Center Library Project Narrative:

During the initial programming phase of the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Teen Center, the library staff identified the requirements and elements that were to be included within the new teen center. Once the space requirements were established, Wendell Burnette Architects identified four potential locations within the existing building that could serve as possible place for the new teen center to exist.

After an intensive review of the proposed options with library administrators, a single option was identified as the most viable. It offers a good location for the teens, giving them a feeling of privacy rather than isolation, yet maintains that area as an integral and dynamic part of the overall library space. This location also provides access to an outdoor 'backyard' terrace for cafe dining, lounging, or meeting with friends.

From the outset, our task has led us to seek an identity that is unique to Scottsdale. Our vision for the Teen Center in Scottsdale ENGAGES THE MINDS of the teens and RESPECTS THE INTELLECT of all patrons. In the spirit of the significant art in the library [curated by the Scottsdale Center for the Arts], the Teen Center connects to place and community by integrating the art and culture that is the essence of Scottsdale. The juxtaposition of the Southwest Collection, Media and the Teen Center, melds indigenous and contemporary art and culture together honoring the past, while inspiring the teens who are our future.

A connection to the history of the building flows from a dynamically colored and illuminated ceiling installation that follows the structural lines of the space and abstracts the once prominent mosaic skylights of the building toward an exterior sky space. The ceiling installation is configured to revise the space as a 'hip / cool' teen space, while functionally solving issues of lighting and acoustics.

The exterior space is a direct result of teen meetings that suggested an 'outdoor - backyard' space. It is envisioned as 'a sculpture on the terrace' (which is currently unused) that flanks the main building entry. To address the early concerns of the Development Review Board that the form appeared too dark in tone and would absorb and re-radiate too much heat if executed in steel plate, the form will be constructed out of semi-translucent, milky, blue-white fiberglass cladding on a white painted steel frame. The cool tone compliments the off-white stucco of the Civic Center Library façade. The massing and geometry of the new form is sympathetic to, and mediates well between the adjacent masses of the 1968 Benny Gonzalez designed building, the addition to the library building and the multi-level parking structure immediately adjacent to the library entry.

The form is conceived to create a sheltered, exterior enclosure that allows shading for the outdoor seating area for the teens that would be solid from the ground to +5' (seating height) and perforated from +5 ft to the top (at +11'-6"). The height is necessary for security of the individuals within the space and is a deterrent to theft of the library collections materials. The narrowness of the shape in plan allows the librarians to have a clear sight line into the area for security reasons. The narrow shape also assists in the form in shading the occupants and the adjacent building opening from the sun.

The form tapers slightly inward from +5' upwards. This gentle taper is informed by the original library building and creates a sympathetic dialog between the forms. The solid lower area helps to conceal lighting that during the evening illuminates the perforated upper portion of the form from within. The inner face of the wall will be clad in a light powder blue fiberglass that, when illuminated, projects a 'cool' iceberg look. We feel the change in material palette (stucco finish of the building to the fiberglass of the café enclosure) is an appropriate response to 'adding' new elements to existing structures that does not dilute the elegance of the existing structure by imitating it directly. Notice in the plan that the structure does not physically touch the building, a reveal condition is created. The 1990's ADP addition does this in a manner as well. The 40' tall, stone-clad wall denotes a clear separation of old and new and changes the building material palette at this location. A reveal is created via a continuous slot skylight between the old and the new.

The steel structure is anchored to the existing concrete deck beneath the precast concrete deck pavers. The drainage of the deck will remain unchanged. A retractable canvas shade fabric (fire-resistant, natural in color) will shield the new wall glazing and the seating areas from the afternoon sun.



PERSPECTIVE DRAWING
V13 1



EXIST V13 ENTRY VIEW
V13 2



PERSPECTIVE DRAWING
V13 3



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PERSPECTIVE
DRAWING
DRB 5
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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